↑ The Atlantis and Mir crews take time out from transferring more than 6,000 pounds of supplies for a crew portrait in Mir's base block. From left are: Mir 22 Flight Engineer Jerry Linenger, STS-81 Commander Mike Baker, Mir 22 Commander Valeri Korzun, Mission Specialists John Grunsfeld, Marsha Ivins, Jeff Wisoff and John Blaha, Pilot Brent Jett and Mir 22 Flight Engineer Alexander Kaleri. Russia and the U. S. are working hard to to learn the lessons that will be needed to build the International Space Station.



 Oranges and grapefruit brought up from Earth get a favorable reception by the Mir 22 crew. From left, Wisoff, Grunsfeld and Kaleri watch as Korzun releases the fruit. Fresh food is one the many welcomed transfers STS-81 brought to the cosmonauts.



↑ From left, Korzun, Baker and Jett unpack a gyrodyne. The device is used for attitude control of the station. The crew worked together for five days until Atlantis undocked from Mir at 6:46 a.m. CST Jan.19 bringing home Blaha and leaving behind Linenger.

The STS-81 crew captures the Russian Mir Space Station against the blackness of space as Atlantis approaches during docking operations. Baker locked the two space craft together at 9:55 p.m. CST Jan. 14 as they streaked over Russia. \rightarrow

NASA Photo STS081-736-034





NASA Photo STS081-368-031 ↑ Baker watches Jett make a run on the Treadmill Vibration Isolation System aboard Atlantis. The International Space Station isolation system under went vibration tests to determine if use of the machine would protect sensitive microgravity experiments.



NASA Photo STS081-372-037 ↑ In Mir's base block Linenger assumes the duties of a Russian flight engineer and checks out his Russian space suit that he will use in March during a space walk. Linenger will remain on Mir until May when Atlantis makes its sixth docking on STS-84, when Mike Foale will replace Linenger on the orbiting laboratory.

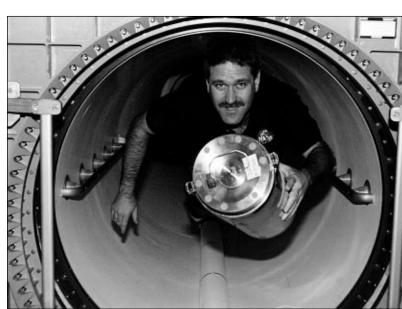


Mir Memories

STS-81 captures moments of docking, astronaut exchange



Linenger, with the help of Grunsfeld, checks out his Russian space suit. Linenger will don the suit in March and become the first American to walk in space using Russian hardware. Linenger will attach experiments outside the station so that scientists may better understand the environment in which the station exists.



↑ Grunsfeld floats with a freezer unit that contains experiment samples into the Spacehab module in Atlantis' cargo bay.



1 Members of the Mir 22 crew examine small flashlights brought by the STS-81 crew. From left are Linenger, Korzun, Kaleri, and Blaha. Blaha returned to Earth Jan. 22 after spending 128 days in space—118 days on the Russian outpost. Atlantis landed at Kennedy Space Center's Shuttle Landing Facility at 8:23 a.m. CST after completing a 3.8 million mile journey that began at 3:27 a.m. Jan.12. When Blaha returned to Ellington Field later that week he said that the Phase 1 mission is a "turning point in world history and this Mir-shuttle program is an example of how you can work together with former enemies and do something fantastic.'